

## ABAG-CALFED Task Force

### Water Management Subcommittee Minutes

Thursday, July 11, 2002 – 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

#### Members Present:

Amy Fowler	Jennifer Krebs
Barbara Kondylis	Kathleen Cha
Dana Haasz	Kathleen Van Velsor
David Briggs	Kearey Smith
Dena Mossar	Marcia Brockbank
Eugene Leong	Mary Selkirk
Gerry Raycraft	Michael C. Houston
Greg Young	Mike Rippey
Ira Ruskin	Robert Gonzales
Jake Mackenzie	Steven Ellis
James Pretti	Terry Bursztynsky

- The meeting was opened by acting chairman, Supervisor and Task Force Chairman, Mike Rippey of Napa County, who introduced and acknowledged the work of San Francisco Estuary Project Director, Marcia Brockbank, in securing a major interagency agreement to encourage San Francisco Bay/Estuary ecosystem restoration, water management, information and scientific exchanges.
- Hearing no issues from the floor for consideration, the chair submitted the minutes for approval [minutes approved], and opened the discussion among members to nominations for the positions of Vice-Chair and Chair of the Water Management Subcommittee. Members nominated Jim Pretti, President, Contra Costa Water District Board of Directors, and Redwood City Council Member Ira Ruskin, respectively. The committee, with full consent, elected Jim Pretti as Vice Chair, and **Council Member Ruskin** as Chair of the Water Management Subcommittee. The acting chair turned over the gavel to the new chair, **Council Member Ruskin**.
- **Committee members and participants heard a brief project update from ABAG's Michael Houston, who reported that the Smart Growth Project's coordinating council has elected to postpone its decision on a preferred alternative until August 2002. The postponement allows for a "ground truthing" campaign, which is being coordinated by the economic caucus of the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Development. The ground truthing is intended to gauge the capacity of infill development throughout the region. Staff is currently preparing the project final report. A segment of the report has been designed to describe a Santa Clara Valley Water District case study of water usage associated with smart growth development in the South Bay. ABAG staff is working with Amy Fowler of the Santa Clara Valley Water District to frame the investigation. Ms. Fowler remarked that both demand and supply issues should be**

addressed. ABAG's Executive Director, Eugene Leong, commented that this is likely to be both a complex and costly undertaking. Members of local government commented that infrastructure impacts are not to be treated lightly; they amount to another unfunded mandate. Local governments are struggling to cope with existing government mandates.

- ~~▪ Committee members and participants heard a brief project update from ABAG's Michael Houston, who reported that the Smart Growth Project's coordinating council has elected to postpone its decision on a preferred project alternative until the fall. The project is currently "ground truthing" some its assumptions in the South Bay, and is preparing its final report for consideration. A segment of the report has been designed to describe a Santa Clara Valley Water District case study of water usage associated with smart growth development in the South Bay. ABAG staff is working with Amy Fowler of the Santa Clara Valley Water District to frame the investigation. Ms. Fowler remarked that both demand and supply issues should be addressed. ABAG's Executive Director, Eugene Leong, commented that this is likely to be both a complex and costly undertaking. Members of local government commented that infrastructure impacts are not to be treated lightly; they amount to another unfunded mandate. Local governments are struggling to cope with existing government mandates.~~

Committee members touched upon the topics of current water allotment decision making and the use of recycled water for industrial and landscape uses. Vice Chair Pretti asked if the Smart Growth project was integrating water district information into its work.

Chair Ruskin asked about the disposition of the committee's earlier request for correspondence. Mary Selkirk indicated that the request had been discussed. She added that Task Force co-chairs Mike Rippey and Greg Zlotnick had reviewed a draft letter and determined that the progress that had taken place in inviting further water analysis into the Smart Growth project was responsive to the issues raised in the Water Subcommittee. The co-chairs consulted with Water Committee members Dena Mossar and Ira Ruskin about this matter and explained their reasoning for not proceeding with a formal letter at this time.

Task Force Chair Rippey asked that the smart growth scenarios be evaluated using a CEQA, or equivalent, approach to analyzing cumulative impacts. This, he said, would elevate ABAG in the planning arena. Council Member Dena Mossar and Rohnert Park City Councilman, Jake Mackenzie, echoed his remarks. Jake Mackenzie noted there was a general plan lawsuit pending in the North Bay about an aquifer conflict. He wondered how a smart growth planning scenario might impact a 20-year urban growth boundary and growth management plan. Several members remarked on the relationship of growth to wastewater, and to quality of life. Chair Ruskin said there is a credibility issue for ABAG—some cities have in-fill capacity, while others don't. Supervisor Rippey called it a "chicken and egg" issue: forecasts

are based on local data, but the numbers are relatively crude and don't capture nuances. Some values are lacking; the project is housing driven. Chair Ruskin commented on the lack of information about the financial impacts associated with the SF water system lawsuit. Robert Gonzales of East Bay MUD commented that CEQA is good, but also has drawbacks. Supervisor Rippey acknowledged the comment and said it was the nub of the dialogue. Amy Fowler indicated that a case study approach worked for them. Several committee members remarked that any proposed regulatory changes to facilitate "smart water" planning were weighty, needing further discussion.

The committee was polled and gave its consent to the following action request:

1. ABAG needs to develop a CEQA analysis and understanding of the cumulative effects of housing and regional planning scenarios.
2. ABAG needs a plan of action, timetable and should address the carrying capacity of the Bay Region.
3. While water supply planning should be the primary focus, drought scenarios should be built in to the analyses.

The chair requested that a letter be sent to the appropriate parties to facilitate the analysis. Michael Houston with the Smart Growth Project will prepare a letter summarizing the committee's request.

- Greg Young, consultant to the Department of Water Resources, gave a presentation on "CALFED Common Assumptions for Water Management Analyses." (Power Point presentation copy appended). Committee members asked questions of the presenter, including questions about factor analysis and tie ins to existing programs. Members thanked Greg Young for bringing this information to the committee.
- Kearey Smith, ABAG regional planner and GIS specialist, reviewed his current water district boundary survey results and map. He queried members about the utility of adding irrigation districts to the map, the map the ABAG website, and of overlying smart growth maps. The committee members encouraged, then requested, that the irrigation districts be added, while several members offered to follow up with their jurisdictions to fill information gaps. All agreed that an overlay of the smart growth project planning scenarios would be helpful information for upcoming meetings.
- Nicole Sandkulla, BAWUA, and Dave Briggs, Contra Costa Water District, reported that the Bay Area Water Agencies Coalition report is forthcoming. The report may yet include the North Bay counties, but not now. The members see it as a way to create a coordinated storytelling of water management challenges and

successes. Mary Selkirk pointed out that the BAWAC effort is consistent with, but only partially responsive to, the other proposed tasks for this committee. She recommended that the committee re-visit and re-confirm its tasks at the next committee meeting.

The meeting was concluded with a reminder that the next scheduled meeting is August 16, 2002.

Full packet of distributed information on file in the MTC library.

KVV/vm